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All kinds of Photographs
Work done in latest styles
also Passport Photos.
Developing and Printing for
Amateurs a Speciality.
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Tel. 244.

The China Mail.

ESTABLISHED 1845

OVERLAND CHINA MAIL
PUBLISHED EVERY
MAIL DAY.
Contains the Week's News
of Hongkong and the
Far East.
Prices (including Postage) to any
part of the world \$15
per annum.

No. 16,780.

號三十月二十年六十百九千壹

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1916.

庚戌年十二月廿三日

PRICE, \$3.00 Per Month

THORNES

OLD VAT
No. 4.
SCOTCH WHISKY.

SOLE AGENTS:

A. S. WATSON & Co. Ltd.
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS
HONGKONG
Tel. 416.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

STANDING ORDERS.

The following is to be inserted in
Standing Orders and numbered 15(a) —
Inspectors, Sergeants and Constables
on patrol duty are directed by the Cap-
tain Supt. of Police to report any neglect
of duty, or any conduct inconsistent with
a due performance of duty, on the part
of any regular Indian or Chinese police
on beat. To assist them in this Beat
Slips will be issued when going on duty.
They are not to give any orders to any
such regular police officer.

NO. 2 PLATOON.

All ranks, except those on duty, will
parade under the O.C. Platoon outside the
Jockey Club Stables, Causeway Bay, on
Friday, December 29th. Fall in at 8.30
p.m. Uniform, Caps and Covers, and
Rides.

BAND AND ORCHESTRA.

Members of these Units, who are
exempted from all other duties, will, as
from January 1st, 1917, in case of absence
from or unavailability in attending prac-
tices, and in other matters, be subject
to the same disciplinary measures as
those governing ordinary patrol and drill
defaulters.

MOUNTED POLICE.

P.C. 87 Ko Shin Kau, No. 3 Company,
is transferred to this detachment.
(Sgt.) F. C. JONES,
D.S.P. (R.).

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

HONGKONG AND CHINA DISTRICT.

T.M.C.A. DIVISION.

PROMOTION.

Ho Leisen, Divisional Secretary, to be
Divisional Secretary and Sergeant.

FIRST AID EXAMINATION.

An Examination in First Aid will be
held at the Tung Wah Hospital on
Wednesday, the 27th inst., at 8 p.m.
All Recruits will attend this Examina-
tion; Trained Members who have not
passed a First Aid Examination since 1st
January, 1915, may attend at their option.

SALVAGE DIVISION.

Recruits will attend a First Aid Lecture
on Thursday, 28th inst., at 8.15 p.m.
(Sgt.) E. RAYNES,
Officer in Charge of District.

EUROPEAN AGENCY.

WHOLESALE Indents promptly
executed at lowest cash prices
for all British and Continental goods,
including
Books and Stationery,
Boots, Shoes and Leather,
Chemicals and Druggists' Sundries,
China, Earthenware and Glassware,
Cycles, Motor Cars and Accessories,
Drapery, Millinery and Fancy Goods
Fancy Goods and Perfumery,
Hardware, Machinery and Metals,
Jewellery, Plate and Watches,
Photographic and Optical Goods,
Fruit and Olives and Stores,
etc., etc.

Commission 2 1/2% to 5%.

Trade Discounts allowed.

Special Quotations on Demand.

Sample Cases from £10 upwards.

Consignments of Produce sold on Account.

WILLIAM WILSON & SONS

(Incorporated in England)

25, ABchurch Lane, LONDON, E.C.4.

Cable Address: "WILSONS, LONDON."

PATELL & CO.

Importers-Exporters

AND

Commission Agents

HONGKONG.

Branches:—

San Francisco, CAL.

Yokohama, JAPAN

Bombay, INDIA

China:—

Hankow

Shanghai

Canton

BUSINESS NOTICES.

STEAM OR MOTOR VESSELS

8,000 Tons, 8,000 Horse Power now Built.

Steel Building Work of every Description.

Castings, Forgings, Repairs and Supplies.

Prompt Attention and Shipment to Destination.

INJECTORS AND STEAM PUMPS.

W. S. BAILEY & Co., Ltd.

ENGINEERS and SHIPBUILDERS

KOWLOON BAY

DRAGON MOTOR CAR CO.

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS FOR THE FAMOUS

HUMPHREY

AND

OVERLAND

MOTOR

CARS

GRAY

DAVIDSON

MOTOR

CYCLES

Telephone 483.

COME AND INSPECT

BEST CARS IN THE COLONY FOR HIRE.

A CALENDAR

OF

ANCIENT CHINESE GREETINGS.

An attractive Gift Calendar containing Six pictures of China,

and made up from Chinese materials.

Attractively presented by a combination of Bamboo, Silk,

Glass and Porcelain Beads, and a selection of

ANCIENT CHINESE GREETINGS.

In neat Cardboard box ready for Posting.

Price \$2.50.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

AND

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.

WEEK DAYS.

7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes.

8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. Every 10 minutes.

10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes.

11.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.

12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.

1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.

1.45 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.

2.15 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Every 15 minutes.

5.00 p.m. to 8.10 p.m. Every 10 minutes.

WEEK DAYS.

7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes.

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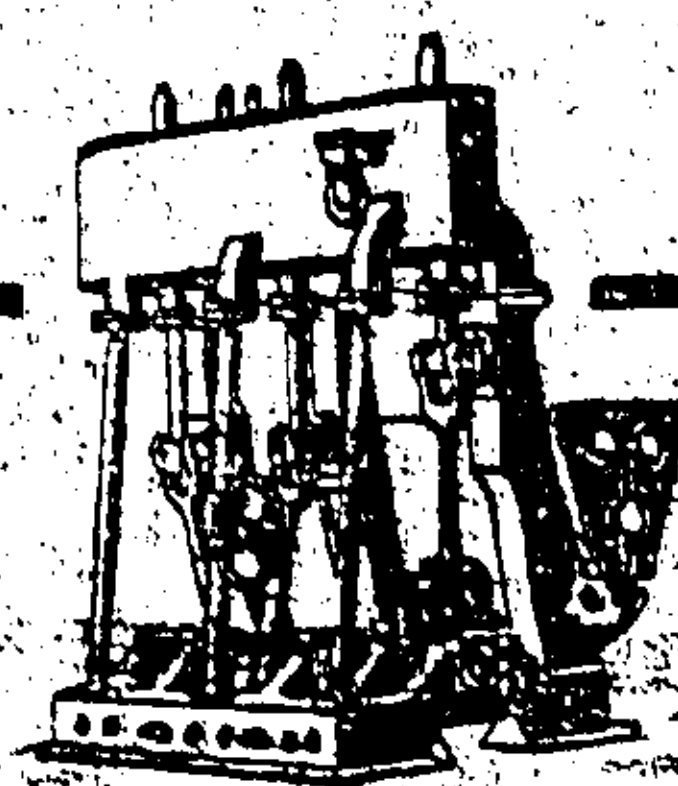
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BUSINESS NOTICES.



TAIKOO DOCKYARD.
BUILDERS OF SHIPS & ENGINES
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION
— THE TAIKOO DOCKYARD & ENGINEERING COMPANY —
OF HONGKONG LTD. — AGENTS —
TELEPHONE 400. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE
TELEPHONE 172.

PERFUMERY

SUITABLE FOR PRESENTS

FROM THE LEADING FRENCH AND ENGLISH MAKERS.

HOUBIGANT, ROGER AND GALLET, PIVER,

ZENOBI, YARDLEY'S, CROWN PERFUMERY CO.

OLD ENGLISH LAVENDER WATER

IN SILVER MOUNTED BOTTLES.

PRICES MODERATE

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING Co., Ltd.

Established 1882

MANUFACTURED ON

PURE Manila ROPE

STRAID 1" to 1 1/2"

CABLE LAY 1 1/2" to 1 3/4"

3 STRAND 3" to 10"

CHICKENHEAD

Oil Drilling Cables of any size up to 3,000 feet in length

For details, samples and full particulars will be forwarded on application to

Shewan Tomes & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, April 15, 1912.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL

AND

GRILL ROOM

J. H. TAGGART,

MANAGER.

PEARL HOTEL.

ADAMANTLY SITUATED AT VICTORIA GAP.

Adjoining the Tramway Terminus, 1,400 feet above Sea Level.

A FIRST-CLASS FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND TOURISTS' HOTEL.

Telephones in all rooms. First-class Cuisine, Lounge, Smoking and Ladies

rooms. Book Cases.

Terms: From \$5 per day. Mos. Telegraph add: "Pearlful"

P. O. PRUSTEN

Manager.

KING EDWARD HOTEL

Central Location.

14, RAFFLES PLACE, From Entrance.

Electric Lifts, Gym and Lighting.

Superior Bathing and Laundry Facilities.

Hot and Cold Water System throughout.

Best of Food and Service.

Telephone 111.

Established 1882.

MAN STEEL, METAL and HARD

WARE MANUFACTURERS. Wholesale

and Retail. General Engineering, Ship

and Machinery Repairs. General Store

keepers and Shipbuilders. Nos. 25 and

27, How Loong Street, (2nd Street, west

of Queen's Road) Telephone No. 218.

Established September 4, 1914.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION for
over THREE-QUARTERS of a CENTURY.

WILKINSON'S

ESSENCE OF FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA.

SARSAPARILLA

THE WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.

THE SAFEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, &

WILKINSON'S INDISPENSABLE TO

SARSAPARILLA ALL WHO VALUE HEALTH

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS AND SUBSTITUTES.

A. S. Watson & Co., Hongkong Dispensary.

Victoria Dispensary, Queen's Dispensary, &c.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LD.

PORTLAND CEMENT

In Casks of 575 lbs. net.

In Bags of 250 lbs. net.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.

GENERAL MANAGERS.

HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO &
WEST RIVER STEAMERS

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO

STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

HONGKONG TO CANTON. CANTON TO HONGKONG

SATURDAY, 23rd DECEMBER.

8 A.M. 'HONGSHAN' 5 P.M. 'KINSHAN'

10 P.M. 'KINSHAN' 5 P.M. 'PATSHAN'

SUNDAY, 24th DECEMBER.

10 P.M. 'PATSHAN' 5 P.M. 'KINSHAN'

Single Fare by Night Steamer \$6.00

Return Fare by Night (available also for Return by Day Steamer) 11.00

Single Fare by Day Steamer 5.00

Return Fare by Day Steamer 6.00

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

S.S. 'TAISHAN' 700 Tons. S.S. 'SHUI TAI' 100 Tons

HONGKONG TO MACAO.

Week days at 8 A.M. and 2 P.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

Sundays, at 9 A.M. and 1 P.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

MACAO TO HONGKONG.

Week days at 7.30 A.M. and 2 P.M. Sunday's at 7.30 A.M. and 2 P.M.

EXCURSION TO MACAO.

SUNDAY, 24th DECEMBER.

The Company's Steamship "TAISHAN."

will depart from the COMPANY'S WING LOK STREET WHARF at 9 A.M.

and return from Macao at 3 P.M.

N.B.—The Company will also run a steamer from Macao on Sunday morning at

INTIMATIONS

BRITISH GOVERNMENT
EXCHEQUER BONDS AND WAR
SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

Applications may be made through the undernoted Banks from whom full information and the necessary forms may be obtained:-

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,
AUSTRALIA AND CHINA,
HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION,
MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.



6% Exchequer Bonds

Repayable 1920

These Bonds, and the interest thereon, are free of Income Tax, if in the beneficial ownership of persons not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom or Great Britain and Ireland.

Bonds are issued in denominations of £100, £50, £20, £10, and £5,000.

The interest is payable half-yearly on 15th February and 15th August.

Bonds can be obtained to "Bearer" or they may be registered in the books of the Bank of England.

A declaration regarding exemption from Income Tax is necessary in the case of Bearer Bonds, but the interest warrants relating to registered Bonds, without any deduction of Income Tax, can be sent direct to the owner of such registered Bonds or to his banker.

War Savings Certificates

Value 5 years after purchase
£200 237 10 0
15s. 6d.

FREE OF INCOME TAX.

For every 15s. 6d. lent now £1 will be paid in 5 years' time, equivalent to 5 per cent. compound interest. No Income Tax will be payable.

Anyone, whatever his or her income may be, can buy War Savings up to a maximum of 500 £1 Certificates in all or their equivalent.

Meanwhile the money may be withdrawn in full any time, with an addition after the first year.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(1) A Certificate entitles the purchaser to receive £1 for each 15s. 6d. on the fifth anniversary of the date of purchase, free of income tax in respect of the accumulated interest.

(2) A Certificate is not transferable except by permission of the Postmaster General; a fee of 1s. will be charged in respect of each transfer. In the event of death, the same rules will be applied as in the case of Savings Bank Deposits.

(3) On written application (on a form obtainable at any Post Office) being made to the Controller, Money Order Department, London, the purchase price, or part thereof in multiples of 15s. 6d., will be repaid at any time, with an addition of 3d. for each 15s. 6d. on the fifth anniversary of the date of purchase, and with a further addition of 1d. per 15s. 6d. for each month thereafter.

(4) No person may hold more than 500 £1 Certificates or their equivalent.

The 21 Certificates (purchase price 15s. 6d.) are issued in book form. The Certificates for £12 (purchase price 9s.) and £25 (purchase price £19 7s. 6d.) are issued without books. The £1, £2, and £25 Certificates are on sale at all Post Offices and at most Banks.

Single Certificates for sums from £100 to £500 may be obtained on application to the Comptroller and Accountant General, General Post Office, London; application forms are available at all Post Offices and at most Banks.

If Certificates be lost, and the serial numbers can be furnished to the Controller of the Money Order Department, new Certificates will be issued at a charge of 1s.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON,
June, 1915.

(For examples of Investment in War Savings Certificates, see the other side.)

Examples of Investment in
War Savings Certificates

1 year 2 years 3 years 4 years 5 years

£100 100 100 100 100

£100 100 100 100 100

£100 100 100 100 100

£100 100 100 100 100

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INTIMATIONS

BANK HOLIDAYS.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 5 of 1915 the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY and TUESDAY the 25th and 26th instant.
Hongkong, Dec. 21, 1916. 1353

FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION
OF HONGKONG.

XMAS HOLIDAYS.

NOTICE is hereby given that all FIRE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 25th and 26th instant.
By Order,
A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

MARINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION
OF HONGKONG.

XMAS HOLIDAYS.

NOTICE is hereby given that all MARINE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 25th and 26th instant.
By Order,
A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE.

ON SATURDAY 23rd December, ALL DEPARTMENTS will remain OPEN until 7 p.m.
On 24th, 25th and 26th December, ALL DEPARTMENTS will be CLOSED. Prescriptions will be dispensed as usual.
Hongkong, Dec. 22, 1916. 1361

NOTICE.

HOLIDAYS.

THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OFFICE will be OPEN on MONDAY, December 25th and MONDAY, January 1st till 1 p.m. for the issue of Import and Export Permits. The Office will be CLOSED on TUESDAY, 26th December.
R. O. HUTCHISON,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.
Hongkong, Dec. 22, 1916. 1366

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BOGEY COMPETITION.

A CUP has kindly been presented for a BOGEY COMPETITION at FAULING on December 23rd, 24th and 25th.
Entrance Fee \$2.00 each Round. Players may take out as many cards as they like during the three days.
Proceeds to be given to War Charities.

MIXED FOURSOME COMPETITION.

TWO CUPS have kindly been presented for a MIXED FOURSOME COMPETITION on Boxing Day, 18 holes. Entrance Fee \$5.00 per couple. Entrances to be given to War Charities. Players select their own opponents. Entries close at FAULING, December 26th, 10 a.m.

W. D. KRAFT,
Acting Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, Dec. 13, 1916. 1358

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

WINTER "BISLEY"

NAVAL, MILITARY AND POLICE TEAM AND CHAMPIONSHIP SHOOT
17 Teams. 68 Competitors.
Stonemasons' Range.

BOXING DAY, December 26th
at 10 a.m.
Messrs. The WISEMAN CAFE will supply Dinner on the Range if ordered on or before December 20th.

SERVICE OF LAUNCHES.

MURRAY PIER and Stonemasons' Inland.
OUT
Murray Pier (dept.)
8.45 a.m. Army Service Launch
9.15 a.m. Naval Launch
9.30 a.m. Police Launch
9.45 a.m. Army Service Launch
10.30 a.m. Victoria
2 p.m. Victoria.

HOME

Stonemasons' (dept.)
4.30 p.m. Army Service Launch
5 p.m. Victoria
6.15 p.m. Naval Launch
6.30 p.m. Army Service Launch.

These launches will run mainly for the convenience of Competitors and Officials on the Range. They may also be used free of charge by any person in service uniform, and by ladies.
Hongkong, Dec. 18, 1916. 1319

HONGKONG HOTEL.

SPECIAL DRYERS will be served in the GRILL ROOM and DINING ROOM on the following days:
CHRISTMAS DAY
BOXING DAY
NEW YEAR DAY.
RAND in attendance. Plan of tables can be seen at Hotel Office.
Hongkong, Dec. 18, 1916. 1314

QUALITY is the point
which is necessary
in an enjoyable
Cigarette.



That's why
"EMBASSY"
VIRGINIA No. 77
has been justly
described as
THE CIGARETTE
DE LUXE.

OPERATIONS AFTER KUT.

PREPARING FOR WINTER
CAMPAIGN.

TWO NEW RAILWAYS.

A Dispatch from Sir Percy Lake covering operations in Mesopotamia from the fall of Kut up till August, when he relinquished the command to General Maude, was published last month. The news which is now coming through regarding the re-opening of the campaign lends to this dispatch an added interest. During the period covered by the dispatch there were no large-scale operations, but the work of preparation for more active measures during the coming cold weather assumed relatively great importance.

Some of this work is briefly indicated. Two new railways are under construction; water communications are being dredged and generally improved, and at Basra extensive engineering works have been made, and wharves have been built at which ocean-going steamers will be able to unload. This work, says the Dispatch is now "well in hand," and the results already achieved are sufficient to show that the projected measures will have far-reaching effect on the business of the port and our all-important river communications.

After describing the Turkish retreat from the El Sin position to the River Hai, where they left rearguards to cover the bridges, the Dispatch says:-

"As the enemy's retention of the Sannaiyat position prevented the passage of our supply ships up the river, our troops operating on the other bank towards the Hai had to depend for food, forage, and in some cases even water, upon land transport."

Consequently, General Goring's occupation of the positions "evacuated in the enemy's retreat could only be gradual, and was largely dependent upon the construction of new roads and a reorganization of his supply system."

These conditions have continued practically unchanged up to the present date.

The Turks still hold the Sannaiyat position, and have constructed other lines behind it on the left bank, which they appear to hold in force.

On the right bank their outposts reach the Hai river which is now fordable. We hold positions from which we dominate the Hai and can deny its passage, while we could, if we pleased, bombard Kut itself.

As regards aviation, the superiority of certain of the hostile aeroplanes over any of our machines in the matter of speed, combined with a large reduction in the number of our pilots (due to sickness partly attributable to overwork), enabled the enemy in May and June to establish what was very nearly a mastery of the air.

With the arrival of more pilots from home matters improved, until in August three of our machines, working together, forced the best enemy machine, a Fokker, to descend, seriously damaged, in its own lines.

During the hot season, now drawing to a close, the business of administration and the work of preparation for more active measures during the coming cold weather assumed relatively great importance.

The advance made in meeting the medical needs of the force is clearly shown by the fact that the total accommodation for sick and wounded in Mesopotamia, which on January 21 (exclusive of Kut) was 4,700 beds, and by May 13 had risen to 9,425, amounted on July 1 to 15,745, with 2,700 more in process of organization.

The advent of the hot weather early in May, with a sudden rise in the temperature, increased the number of sick rapidly. The intense heat was aggravated at the front by the total absence of shade and by the failure of the "sannaiyat" or north wind, which usually dries about the middle of June, did not commence to blow till July 10. The admissions to hospital then at once lessened, and are still decreasing. The majority of the cases are not serious.

An outbreak of cholera occurred at the Tigris front at the end of April, but was not under control in the course of a short time, since when only a small number of isolated cases are reported from time to time from various parts of the country.

During the flood season, from April to June, nine-tenths of the country round Basra is under water, and in normal years a continuous flood of water from six to twelve miles wide used to flow from

feet deep, separates the Basra tract from the higher lying desert country to the south-west.

The flood water in 1915 forced its way into and inundated the Makina Masas Camp area. This year, in order to meet the needs of a constant stream of troops and stores pouring into Basra, it was imperative to safeguard from floods the ground space required for camps, hutting, store depots and additional hospital accommodation. This was done by constructing, first, a main protective embankment of "bund" from the Tigris at Magil to the higher ground at Shaiba. This "bund" was 11 to 12 miles long, and completely shut off the belt of flood water above referred to.

It was supplemented by a second bund, which branched off from it about two miles from the river, and was carried to the neighbourhood of the Zubair Gate of Basra, some three miles. A series of smaller subsidiary bunds was constructed along the river front and the intermediate creeks. The whole system, covering a total length of some 30 miles, while the assistants are pushing on both lines with much zeal and energy, in spite of considerable difficulties in the transport of materials.

Two railways are now in course of construction. Lieutenant-Colonel I. H. White and his assistants are pushing on both lines with much zeal and energy, in spite of considerable difficulties in the transport of materials.

THE OPIUM PROHIBITION
CONFERENCE.
SOME IMPORTANT
RESOLUTIONS.

Since the 10th inst. the National Opium Prohibition Conference has been meeting daily to discuss the important question of finally extirpating the opium evil in China. Among the many resolutions passed by the Conference, are perhaps the most important:-

"The Government be requested to issue strict orders to the provinces of Yunnan, Kweichow, Shensi, Kiangsi, Kwantung and Kiangnan, within whose area opium is still planted and sold and smoked, to take immediate measures to suppress completely the opium evil so that there will be neither poppy growing nor opium traffic in these provinces by next spring when the whole country will be inspected by the opium delegate from Great Britain."

"That all officials in whose territory opium is discovered, shall be punished as in the case of an official responsible for the loss of opium."

"That the Government should cease to collect the special opium tax on the Shanghai stock of opium and cancel the agreement made with the Shanghai Opium Combine."

"That a special institute be established for the examination of officials suspected of opium smoking, and if found guilty, the latter are to be punished severely."

COUGHING INTO
CONSUMPTION

"Only a Cough," but you stop it while it is ONLY a cough.

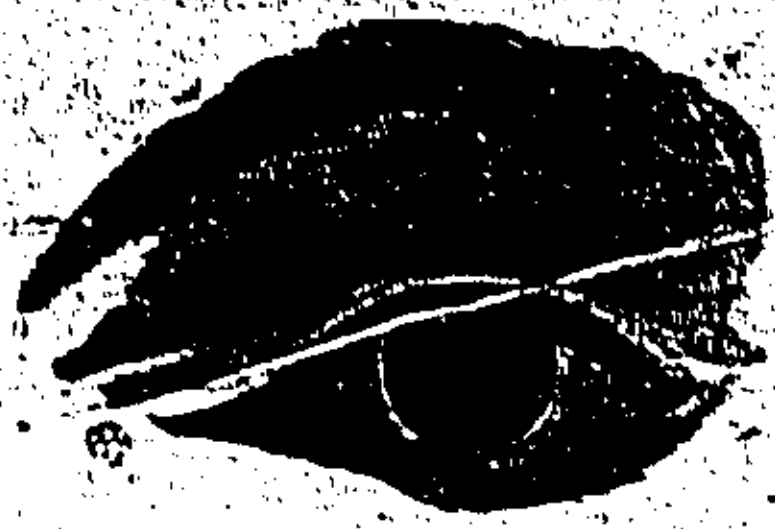
WATERBURY'S
METABOLIZED
COD LIVER OIL
COMPOUND

The finest preparation made for combating "coughs," "cures" any cough that is only a cough. Very palatable.

OF ALL CHEMISTS

Price - 21/6 and 42/6

INTIMATIONS



YOUR EYES

SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED.

At the first symptom of eye strain you should consult us. We test eyes scientifically and fit glasses to individual requirements.

CLARK & CO.
SCIENTIFIC OPTICIANS
108 BROADWAY, CHATER RD.
HONGKONG

HONGKONG & MANILA

HONGKONG HOTEL GRILL ROOM.

FINAL PERFORMANCE OF "EMMETT"
ON 30TH DECEMBER, 1916.

IN view of the fact that the above performance will commence at 7.30 p.m. the AFTER THEATRE SUPPER will be served in the Grill Room at 10.45 p.m.

SUPPER TICKETS \$2.00 PER HEAD.
The entire proceeds of the sale of the above will be devoted

to the
"STAR AND GARTER FUND"

Intending patrons are kindly requested to book seats beforehand.
Plan and tickets may be obtained at the Hotel Office.

Hongkong, Dec. 22, 1916. 1365

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

(BY) WING to unavoidable circumstances, the POLICE RESERVE ATHLETIC MEETING, which was intended to be held on 1st January, 1917, has been POSTPONED sine die.

INSP. C. M. ALVES,
Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, Dec. 22, 1916. 1363

HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY,
LIMITED.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the demand for Electricity has almost reached the limit of the capacity of the present Generating Plant, and as a result no further applications for new connections can be accepted as from 1st January next, until completion of the New Power Station at North Point. It was fully expected that the North Point Station would have been completed and running before now, but owing to the War work in respect of the new plant has been considerably delayed.

By Order of the Board,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.
Agents.
Hongkong, Dec. 14, 1916. 1359

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

TURKEYS, GESE,

CAPONS, CHICKENS

AND

HAMS.

Order Early -

To

Avoid Disappointment.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO., Ltd.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "MANIFESTO" HONGKONG

Codes Used: A. L. A. B. C. Fifth Edition, Engineering First and Second Editions, Western Union, and Watkins.

Dock Owners, Ship Builders, Marine and Land Engineers, Boiler Makers,

Iron and Brass Founders, Forge Masters, Electricians.

ACETYLENE CUTTING AND WELDING FOR SHIP AND BOILER REPAIR.

Modern up-to-date plant operated by our own specially trained

workmen under expert European supervision.

All classes of light steel work manufactured by the above process,

Tanks, Drums, Ventilators, Pipes, &c.

THE DIMENSIONS OF DOCKS AND SLIPS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| NAME OF DOCK OR SLIP | LENGTH | BREADTH | DEPTH OVER | MARK OF TIDE | MARK OF TIDE |
|----------------------|--------|---------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| DOCK | FEET | FEET | FEET | FEET | FEET |
| KOWLOON | | | | | |
| No. 1 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 2 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 3 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 4 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 5 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 6 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 7 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 8 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 9 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 10 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 11 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 12 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
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| No. 17 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
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| No. 20 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
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| No. 22 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
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| No. 27 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 28 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 29 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 30 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 31 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 32 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 33 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 34 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 35 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 36 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 37 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 38 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 39 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 40 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| No. 41 Dock, Kowloon | 177 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 |

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ALL DELICIOUS AND APPETISING.
GAME, HAM, CHICKEN AND TONGUE, ETC., ETC.
Prepared by a celebrated Chef under ideal conditions of cleanliness and selection.

IN GLASS, TINS AND WHITE JARS.
ONE OF THE BEST OF
CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S
CELEBRATED TABLE DELICACIES.
AGENTS FOR LIA & PERKINS
WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE

Dr. J. Collis Browne's
Chlorodyne
THE ORIGINAL AND ONLY GENUINE.

DIARRHŒA, and is the only Specific in **CHOLERA** and **DYSENTERY**.

FEVER, CROUP, AGUE.
The Best Remedy known for **COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.**
The only Palliative in **NEURALGIA, COLIC, RHEUMATISM.**

Chlorodyne is a liquid taken in drops, graduated according to the malady. It invariably relieves pain of whatever kind; creates a calm refreshing sleep; allays irritation of the nervous system when all other remedies fail; leaves no bad effects; and can be taken when no other medicine can be tolerated.

CONVINCING MEDICAL TESTIMONY WITH EACH BOTTLE.
Name Genuine without the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne on the Stamp."
Sole in England, 1/11, 2/9, 4/6.
Sole Manufacturers: **J. T. DAVENPORT, Ltd.,** London, S.E.

THE BATTLE OF VERDUN.

BRILLIANT DESCRIPTION.

[BY E. ASHMEAD BARTLETT.]

I have just witnessed the most crowning irony of the war—perhaps of all history. I have watched the French Army of Verdun—exhausted and useless, according to the enemy's reports—retake in seven hours, without withdrawing a man or a gun from the Somme, practically the whole of the ground which it took the Crown Prince's army six months to win and hold at a cost of, roughly, half a million of the best of the German troops, and only after an expenditure of an unprecedented quantity of material and ammunition. Douaumont was the key to France and to peace, according to the Kaiser's proclamation.

It turned out to be neither the one nor the other, but in the minds of the German people and of the German army, after their stupendous exertions to capture it, it occupied a sentimental and moral position that was never justified by its strategic position. But the mass of the civil population attach far more importance to the words of their leaders—especially so, or did, the German people to the words of the All Highest—than to an actual study of the map. What, then, will the German people say when they learn the truth of the events of this ever-historic 24th October, 1916?

A front of seven kilometres has been overrun in seven hours to a depth of three kilometres in the vital centre. Douaumont, Thiaumont, and the quarries of Haumont—these scenes of the bloodiest battles in all history—are now once again in the hands of the French infantry. But they represent far more than mere names and strategic gains. This semicircle of works and heights is a vast cemetery of German corpses and German ambitions. Some two hundred thousand of the rotting bones of the flower of the German army lie buried in this gain of seven hours' fighting. They are also a vast field of unfulfilled hopes and unredeemed promises.

GERMAN HOPES SHATTERED.

Every German hope and every Imperial promise was concentrated on Douaumont. For the possession of this dominating plateau the German infantry fought and died like heroes. No one will deny that. For that same plateau the German people gave their sons willingly, relying on the Imperial word that decisive victory must follow which would bring the longed-for peace in its bloody train. Neither did the victory nor the peace follow, but nevertheless Douaumont marked the high-water mark of German efforts throughout six months and, as long as it remained in their possession, they could feel that perhaps all hope was not yet gone, and at least they held the ground on which such countless thousands had been sent to their untimely end.

Now in seven hours all is changed. The work and futile sacrifices of six months have been undone at a cost which perhaps may work out at one-eighth per cent. of the achievement. Who can say? Perhaps the French have found the Crown Prince's Crown in Douaumont. Can the last-minute Prince who signs for peace and who mourns over the benefits he intended, but is unable to confer on humanity, ever face the German mothers again? I doubt it. Better for him and for his reputation had he left his bones amongst his rotting legions on those sombre heights. The irony and the futility of it all! That is what struck me most as I watched the blue waves preceded by an inferno of bursting shells, and almost hidden by the mists, slowly submerging the blood-stained heights, flung irrevocably onwards, to the hour of atonement.

The importance of the victory cannot be calculated in mere words or figures. It is the moral effect on the German people and on the German Army that must count most in the end—when the truth comes out, and it cannot be concealed for ever. The French Army at Verdun was supposed to be exhausted. The French, the German people have been told by their leaders over and over again, had been so exhausted before Verdun that they were incapable of assisting the English Army in a grand joint offensive. The Somme proved the falsity of this calculation, and the events of the afternoon of 24th October have proved that not only are the French capable of a giant effort on both sides of the Somme, but also without slackening their efforts there for a single hour, they can embark successfully on a second offensive before Verdun.

But 24th October has proved yet more. It has shown that with proper artillery support and sound infantry tactics and with a minimum of loss, the French infantry can retake positions in seven hours which cost them six months to lose. There is only one conclusion to put on these facts. There is no other possible explanation.

The Allies in the West are everywhere superior in numbers, guns, and morale. Victory can only be won in the West. The German army is slowly but surely being bled white. Its only chance cannot now be tied. It is only a question of time, patience, fresh sacrifices, and unlimited munitions.

When I saw General Castelnau ten days ago he used these words to me: "We have got the enemy by either ear, and we are shaking his head to and fro in such a manner that he hardly knows what is happening to him." On Monday, 23rd October, I found myself for the first time at the historic fortress. There I learnt many interesting things.

In the first place, ever since the battle of the Somme opened on 1st July the Germans have been putting up a gigantic "bluff" before the fortress. It was known that they had withdrawn a number of their divisions, and were constantly changing others, for by another irony they were so hard-pressed for men on account of losses on the Somme, that Verdun became a rest camp for divisions shattered and broken on that front; but what was not accurately known was the number of guns they had been obliged to send from Verdun to the Somme. There were various estimates from one-third to a half. The ground in the valley of the Meuse is not so favourable for aerial reconnaissance as the Somme. You have not got the flat stretches and the long, rolling plains, on which almost every gun emplacement can be seen and photographed, and almost every gun counted. The ground around Verdun is a series of heights, valleys, and woods, which lends itself admirably to the concealment of artillery. To keep up the bluff, even up to the last few weeks, if a humble "adjutant" tried to make his way from one French position to another in daylight, he would be greeted with salvos of eight-inch shells. But Joffre, on 24th October decided to call the enemy's bluff, with results that are now known throughout the entire world.

For some days the enemy seems to have had an expectation that an attack was meditated, and he has been in a state of extreme nervousness. Thus the actual hour of the French attack may have taken him by surprise, but he cannot claim it was altogether unexpected. For days the French heavy guns have been smashing his positions to pulp, and on Sunday afternoon being seized with the sudden panic of an expected infantry attack the enemy opened up a "feu de barrage" with no fewer than eighty batteries, the position of many of which the French have been endeavouring accurately to locate for weeks. Thus in his panic the enemy prematurely gave his positions away, and thereby materially assisted the fire of the French counter-batteries against his artillery on the afternoon of the assault.

Verdun and its forts. There being no light on Monday, I was able to have a good look at Verdun, and in time of force. I have always believed that the Germans came very near to taking the fortress, and that the French were within an ace of evacuating the right bank "of the Meuse," including the dominating plateau of Douaumont altogether. This is still a controversial question that I do not propose to go into here. One thing I do know is this, that they never intended to evacuate the town and the citadel, and that orders were issued to defend it to the last extremity. After you have seen the fortifications of Verdun and the citadel of the town itself you can only believe that in spite of the divine mission which the All Highest claims "on earth," Divine Providence is certainly on the side of the Allies. How any general staff can ever justify an attack on positions of such natural and artificial strength it is difficult to conceive. The Germans could not have chosen a more favourable piece of ground for the defence on which to throw away the flower of their army and to exhaust their material. Now, after going all over Verdun, I cannot conceive how it ever could have been captured even if the French had evacuated all the heights, on the right bank of the Meuse.

Verdun is of special interest to all Englishmen, because it was in this fortress that the bulk of the British prisoners were interned during the Napoleonic wars from 1800 to 1814. They were allowed to live in the town, to have a racetrack, and their own casino, where enormous fortunes were lost and won. Certain prisoners, however, were confined in the citadel for misconduct, or for attempting to escape. In the dark underground dungeons they suffered severe hardships, and the citadel became a byword for a century afterwards. On Monday last I lunched with the Commandant of the town, in one of the mansions which formerly held British prisoners, and I was shown all over this remarkable citadel, which is perhaps one of the strongest positions in the world. It was originally built by the great Vauban, who seems to have anticipated the power of modern artillery with almost amazing precision. Since his day the works have been enlarged, more galleries have been added, and its defences by machine-gun fire brought up to date.

Verdun's strategic position. I also went all over the battered ruins of the town. There, it seems to me, would have cost the enemy at least 100,000 men, for every house and cellar has been turned into a separate fortress, and officers were issued to defend each to the last.

This luncheon in the citadel fifty feet underground, with the guns thundering away all round you, was an experience I shall never forget. The long vaulted gallery was decorated with the flag of the Allies, and the luncheon was one of the best I have had in France. How history changes with the passing of the ages! Here we were gathered round the

loaded board which a century ago roamed to the tread of our soldiers and sailors hacking their brains to find a means of escape from durandee ville. Some remained in these vaults for ten long weary years, while the history of Europe was being remoulded. The French never lose their natural guile of temperament.

After lunch I was taken to another gallery, which had been fitted up as a theatre. A week ago a company from the Comedie Francaise were performing there to the men whom I saw on 27th October retaking Douaumont. I guard the programme as a souvenir.

All Monday there was unwarped still in and around Verdun. The roads were packed with long lines of troops, and transport moving towards this town. Amidst the ruins were large numbers of battalions resting and waiting the signals to move forward to the front trenches. I saw black Africans grinning with satisfaction as they munched their white bread, stroking their rifles, and laughing as they watched the French guns thundering away at the enemy's works. They are great in attack; the Senegalese. I watched the splendid Colonial troops in khaki waiting for the signal to move forward, the Zouaves and the Chasseurs Alpins in dark blue. It was obvious there was dirty work ahead for someone. These masses of assaulting troops are not brought into a ruined town, within range of the enemy's guns, for a half-holiday. All Monday afternoon the French heavy artillery kept hammering away in the semi-darkness produced by the intense mist, which hid the enemy's positions from view.

Even at four o'clock you could see no smoke, but only the flashes of the guns in the gathering darkness. The enemy put up his customary "feu de barrage," but only in a half-hearted manner, as he seemed blinded by the prevailing conditions. That evening, as I wandered my way back to camp everyone was asking, "What will the weather be like to-morrow?" "Will it clear?" "Will the aeroplanes and balloons be able to direct the fire of our artillery?" The old peasants of the country prophesied rain, which might clear away the mists about ten or eleven in the morning.

It simply poured with rain during the night of 23rd October, and morning of 24th October. At dawn the rain was still coming down in a drizzle, and the mist was as bad as ever. It seemed as if Nature was mingling her tears with those of the Crown Prince. It was a fitting day of surpassing unpleasantness for the Germans awaiting the Gallie onslaught. At Verdun the numerous heights enable you to see very well long distances when the weather is clear, but on a day like this it is next to impossible to see anything. The hills rise beyond Verdun in a series of separate heights, culminating in Douaumont, and you can see distinctly what passes on each when the weather is fine, but in rain and mist they are all jumbled into a shapeless burr.

Throughout the morning the French guns kept up an incessant and furious bombardment along the whole line, so hoarse was the atmosphere, and so dead the sound waves, that you could hear little of this fire until you were actually within half a kilometre of the guns. But the flashes showed up clearly in the gloom. Who can describe the mud? You sink up to your knees in this heavy clay soil, the dug-outs are choked with it, and the infantry go into the trenches in blue and come out completely caked in khaki-coloured slime. They have to live and fight in trenches half full of water, in an atmosphere which already has a winter chill. Already there have been cases of frozen feet. It was a bad day for an enemy who hoped to escape by running. This probably accounts for the exceptionally large number of prisoners. They were probably stuck in the mud.

Functionally at 11.45 the French infantry everywhere advanced along the front of seven kilometres, and assaulted the enemy's works. They immediately disappeared amidst the mists and rain and smoke. It was impossible to tell what was happening, or how they were progressing. Throughout the morning the advance went steadily forward, splendidly supported by the French guns in spite of the conditions. The horizon to calicoes was merely an inferno of bursting shells. However, towards 3.30 the weather lifted somewhat, and like a swarm of flies who have discovered a corpse, the French aeroplanes went buzzing forward over our heads hungry to send back information to the gunners.

Both Thiaumont and Douaumont could now be seen, but were completely surrounded in smoke. It was obvious, however, that Thiaumont was already won, for the German barrage was concentrated on it as if to check a further advance on Douaumont—their last hope. I could watch the light signals being sent back by the aeroplanes flying very low over the clouds of smoke. Steadily the wave of fire seemed to move upwards towards Douaumont. Exactly at six o'clock rockets announced that it had been taken. What was happening in other parts of the field remained veiled in smoke, mist, and obscurity until the evening. Then the telephone told the world that a great victory had been won.

WHOOPIING COUGH. WHEN your child has whooping cough, be careful to keep the cough loose and expectoration easy. Giving Chamberlain's Cough Remedy may be required. This remedy will also liquefy the tough mucus, and make it easier to expectorate. It has been used successfully in many epidemics and is recommended by the most eminent physicians. It is perfectly safe for sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

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MITSUBISHI GOSHI KWAISHA
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For Particulars, apply to
K. KATO,
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SECOND

5 1/2% RUSSIAN INTERNAL

SHORT TERM LOAN

OF 1916 FOR

ROUBLES 8,000,000,000

THE Subscription to the above LOAN will be opened from 14th November to 20th December, 1916.

The price of issue is 95 per cent.

The Loan is entirely free of Income Tax and other taxation.

The Loan is redeemable at par on 14th October, 1926, without option for the Russian Government to convert it at an earlier date.

Coupons are payable half yearly on the 14th April and 14th October.

As interest on the above loan runs from 14th October, the interest accrued on date of subscription must be taken into consideration and is to be added to the price of issue.

The Russo-Asiatic Bank in Hongkong is ready to accept applications for the above named loan.

Special favourable rates will be quoted for Russian Exchange.

Payment may also be made in Roubles.

Applications will be wired to Petrograd free of telegraphic charges and commission.

40 per cent. only of the cost of the Bonds may be paid on application, the balance to be paid on receipt of the Bonds.

The Bank is also ready to give every facility to subscribers in the shape of advances against the scrips.

G. TISDALL,
Manager,
RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK,
Hongkong, Nov. 7, 1916. 1922

KEATING'S LOZENGES

Cure the Worst Cough.

LESSONS IN CHINESE.

MR. LI HUN YAN, a Chinese graduate versed in literature, has been a teacher in European Universities and is a native speaker of English.

He has a good method of teaching European to the Chinese, and Chinese to the European, and has also a good knowledge of literature and history.

Those who intend learning the Chinese language are requested to write to "The China Mail," Office, Direct to No. 121, Wellington Street, Second Floor.

1121

FRENCH LESSONS

G. MOUSSON

11, MONTAGNE RILL ROAD

Hughes & Hough

AUCTIONEERS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

General Auctioneers
Shares, Coal and General Produce
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PROPRIETORS
"To-Kwa-Wan" Coal Storage.

Codes used
Bentley's

A. B. C. 4th & 5th Editions.

A 1 Telegraphic Code.

Telegraphic Address
"MERION" HONGKONG.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED),

on

WEDNESDAY,

the 27th December, 1916, at 11 a.m.,

at their To Kwa Wa Godown, Salvaged Cargo ex. S.S. "WISLEY,"

Comprising:—

About 400 drums of Caustic Soda.

About 15 drums "Naphthalene" Flake.

About 60 casks of Carbonate of Ammonia.

About 20 casks of Oxide of Iron.

Twenty Bridding Machines, "for covering electric cables."

Three small Electric Motors.

Eight machines and parts for cotton winding (these are suitable for use in knitting factories).

One Marble Switchboard.

One Starting Regulator in cast iron case.

Nine direct current starting switches.

Two Ammeters.

Fifteen cases of Spare parts for Overhead Cars (i.e.—springs, axles, clutches, roller bearings, mudguards, wheels, &c., &c.)

And

A lot of spare gear wheels, and bearings for the same make of car.

Immediately following this sale the undermentioned cargo will be sold on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Coy., Ltd.

108 boxes of Tin Plates.

100 cases of Black Plates.

10 cases of Lacing Hooks for Boots and Shoes.

The To Kwa Wa cargo will be on view from Monday the 25th inst., and inspecting orders for the cargo at the Wharf and Godown Coy.'s premises may be obtained from the undersigned.

Launch to convey intending purchasers will leave Blake Pier on the morning of the 27th at 10.30 a.m.

Terms:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers,
Hongkong, Dec. 11, 1916. 1217

AUCTIONS.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED),

on

SATURDAY,

the 30th December, 1916, at 10.30 a.m.,

at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Dia Vaux Road, Corner of

Ice House Street.

A QUANTITY OF

VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

Removed to Sales Rooms for Convenience of Sale.

Including Glass and Crockery Ware, Pictures, etc., 3 Small Brass-mounted Korean Boxes, Sundry Vases, Bowls and Candlesticks, Silver-mounted Goods, etc., etc.

Terms:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers,
Hongkong, Dec. 21, 1916. 1257

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED),

on

AN EARLY DATE.

The following LIGHTHOUSE GEAR, &c., viz:—

One oscillating apparatus, complete.

Circular wick lamps.

Sparry burners.

Cylinders and wicks.

Incandescent Petrol Lamps, and appurtenances

And

A quantity of gear pertaining to Mooring Buoys.

Also

A number of Locomotive wheels and Axles.

Further particulars may be obtained from the undersigned.

Terms:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers,
Hongkong, Aug. 24, 1916. 954

COLUMBIA

NEW

DANCE

RECORDS.

503 (Mighty Lak & Rose) Waltz

(A Perfect Day)

504 (Tina) Waltz

(On with the Dance)

505 (Leo) Waltz

(On with the Dance)

506 (Leo) Waltz

(On with the Dance)

507 (Leo) Waltz

(On with the Dance)

508 (Leo) Waltz

(On with the Dance)

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(On with the Dance)

520 (Leo) Waltz

(On with the Dance)

521 (Leo) Waltz

(On with the Dance)

522 (Leo) Waltz

THE WAR.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

THE AMERICAN NOTE.

A SURPRISE FOR THE OFFICIAL WORLD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22. President Wilson's Note surprised the official world. None of the Ambassadors apparently had any idea of the intention.

Mr. Lansing, in the course of a statement, said: "We are mindful of our own rights in despatching the Note. These are becoming more and more involved by the belligerents. We are entitled to know what each belligerent seeks in order to regulate our future conduct." We only decided to send the note on the 18th inst.

ANOTHER STATEMENT BY MR. LANSING.

Late yesterday Mr. Lansing, Secretary of State, after a conference with President Wilson, issued another statement designed, as he said, to make clear beyond all question that there had been no change from the policy of neutrality on the part of the United States.

"SURPRISE AND PAIN" IN ENGLAND.

London, Dec. 22. Surprise and pain, rather than indignation, are the sentiments expressed in the English newspapers regarding President Wilson's Note. They do not doubt President Wilson's sincerity in attempting to be impartial towards the belligerents, but are astonished at his placing Germany on a par with the Allies as regards the objects of the war. The utterances of Lincoln and Seward in the Civil War regarding a premature peace and intervention are generally recalled as the best model for the Allies' attitude now.

The opinion is expressed that President Wilson, in taking soundings will withdraw when he finds that the water is too deep and will await a more favourable opportunity.

SPECULATIONS AS TO MOTIVES.

It is pointed out that President Wilson's Note arrived in London on Monday, before Mr. Lloyd George delivered his speech. It was decided on Tuesday and delivered at the Foreign Office on Wednesday. Therefore it must have been conceived before Dr. Bethmann-Hollweg delivered his speech. There are various surmises regarding the motives of President Wilson's course of action at the present juncture. It is pointed out that pro-German activity in America has increased since President Wilson's reelection, and that there has been a strong agitation in the United States in favour of an embargo on the export of food.

It is possible that President Wilson received special information from the German Government indicating the extent they are prepared to go in the direction of reparation, restitution and guarantees.

MR. BONAR LAW DECLINES TO MAKE A STATEMENT.

London, Dec. 21. In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law refused to make a statement on President Wilson's Note. He declared that the question could only be dealt with in communication with our Allies.

THE RUMANIAN FRONT. ENEMY ATTEMPTS AT AN OFFENSIVE REPULSED.

London, Dec. 22. A Russian communiqué states: "On the Rumanian front enemy attempts at an offensive were repulsed."

In Dobruja detachments with-drew northwards after stubbornly resisting superior forces along the whole front.

A regiment daringly attacked advancing Bulgars who were thrown into a lake, most of them being drowned.

RUMANIAN OIL WELLS DESTROYED.

London, Dec. 22. The British Military Mission satisfactorily reports the destruction under the Rumanian Government's orders of the oil wells and refineries in the chief centres.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT PROROGUED.

London, Dec. 22. Parliament has been prorogued till February 7th.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

The King's Speech in proroguing Parliament was as follows:—

"Throughout the months that have elapsed since I last addressed you, my Navy and Army, in conjunction with those of our gallant and faithful Allies, have by unceasing vigilance and indomitable valour, justified the high trust I placed in them. I am confident that, however long the struggle, their efforts, supported by the inflexible determination of all my subjects throughout the Empire, will finally achieve the victorious consummation of those aims for which I entered the war."

My Government has been re-constructed with the sole object of furthering those aims unshaken and unimpaired. The vigorous prosecution of the war must be our single endeavour until we have vindicated the rights so ruthlessly violated by our enemies, and established the security of Europe on a sure foundation. In this sacred cause I am assured of the united support of all my peoples, and I pray almighty God to give us His blessing."

The Speech also thanked the House of Commons for the unstinted liberality with which they had continued to provide for the burdens of the war.

EGYPTIAN FRONTIER WARFARE.

BRITISH RECAPTURE EL ARISH.

A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE TURKS.

London, Dec. 22. An official report from Egypt states:—

"We have occupied El Arish after the place has been in the enemy's hands for two years. The enemy intended to offer a strong resistance and had constructed a strong entrenched position at Masaid, covering El Arish."

The rapidity of our advance completely upset their calculations and forestalled the arrival of the enemy's reinforcements.

The enemy abandoned the position on the night of the 19th inst. and retreated east and south-east.

The recapture of El Arish is a serious blow to the Turks.

LIVELY ARTILLERY WORK.

London, Dec. 22. A French communiqué announces lively artillery work in the Louvemont district of the Meuse and also north of Monastir.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

MINOR OPERATIONS.

London, Dec. 22. General Sir Douglas Haig reports: "We repulsed an attempted raid opposite Hohenzollern. Our artillery dispersed working parties northward of the Ancre."

PARIS, Dec. 22. A communiqué says:—

"There has been a lively artillery duel in the region of the Hardumont work, Louvemont and Chambray Farm."

Several coups de main were carried out in different sectors. There was cannonading elsewhere.

AUSTRIANS SHELL A MILITARY HOSPITAL.

London, Dec. 21. An Italian official report states that the enemy shelled a military hospital at Gorizia, despite visible red crosses. There were six casualties among the staff.

PORTUGAL AND THE WAR.

21,000 TROOPS FOR EAST AFRICA.

London, Dec. 22.

The President of Portugal, interviewed, stated that at present 15,000 splendidly trained troops are holding the Rovuma River, from the Indian Ocean towards Nyassa. Six thousand additional troops are proceeding thither from Portugal. The Portuguese effort in Europe will be made at the moment when it will have the maximum effect.

BARON DE REUTER KILLED.

London, Dec. 22. Baron Hubert de Reuter, the only son of the late Baron, was killed at Beaumont Hamel on the 18th inst. while serving as a private in the Black Watch. Through his persistent bravery his platoon of twenty men captured a German officer and 97 men. He was killed while carrying a third comrade to a place of safety.

His Colonel writes that he intended to recommend him for a very high distinction if he had lived.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND PEACE.

New York, Dec. 22. The Note by President Wilson suggests that belligerents should have their desires in regard to the arrangements for a guarantee against future war. He feels it to his duty and right to point out the interest of the United States in the conclusion of the war. The test imposed upon neutral nations is now exceedingly hard to endure, and will be rendered altogether intolerable. He submits that authoritative spokesmen on either side have not avowed the precise objects which, if attained, would satisfy them. The world is left to conjecture what definitive results, what actual exchange of guarantees, or political territorial changes or readjustments, or what state of military access even would end the war.

The Note speculates on the possibility of the belligerents terms being not so irreconcilable as is feared and an interchange of views would clear a way or a conference.

COMMENTS FROM AMERICA.

New York, Dec. 22. The Teutonic sympathisers in the German-American Press are most jubilant at President Wilson's Note, which they hail as a great victory for Count Bernstorff, who has been conducting a vigorous peace propaganda. Some of the leading newspapers assert that the President's action is inopportune and unfortunate, and others welcome the suggestion of peace and hope European statesmen will define their aims and terms.

The Tribune regrets that President Wilson, who has not protested against the violation of Belgium, has practically endorsed the German peace manoeuvre. The Herald says that the suspicion aroused by the President's action will militate against his object.

The New York World says that President Wilson's suggestions cannot be ignored, as he represents the sentiment of the majority of Americans.

The Sun says that the most momentous feature of the Note is the change in the historical attitude of the United States towards Foreign Affairs.

WHAT GERMANY WANTS.

London, Dec. 22. The Frankfurter Zeitung in an inspired article indicates that Germany desires a reduction of British naval supremacy, a rearrangement of Continental Europe on the basis of the present war position, and a colonial settlement satisfying the German ambitions for expansion.

THE BRITISH PREMIER'S SPEECH.

FRENCH OPINION.

PARIS, Dec. 22. The French Press cordially approves of Mr. Lloyd George's speech, and does not doubt that the Allies reply will be in the same spirit.

The German comments received up to the present are in a moderate tone. The newspapers remark that at present, at any rate, there appears to be a very great gulf between the British and German standpoints, and assert, regarding reparation for the war, that she has not broken international laws, and that she is not defeated.

AMERICAN VIEW.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22. The speech of Mr. Lloyd George is construed as leaving the door open for negotiations. Count Bernstorff is credited with the remark: "That sounds as if they would not refuse to talk of peace."

German officials expect that Dr. Bethmann-Hollweg will confidentially communicate peace terms to the British Government.

SHIPS SUNK.

London, Dec. 22. The following sinking are reported:—The steamer *Edna* (British), *Syona* (Norwegian), and *Edna* (Danish), vessels *Jorgen*, *Larsen* (Danish), and *Mord* (Swedish).

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET DISTURBED.

New York, Dec. 22. President Wilson's Note, and Mr. Lansing's statement that the United States is on the verge of war, has weakened the stock market. The total sales—\$3,000,000 shares—is the largest since the Northern Pacific corner of 1901. Cotton is practically demoralised; it broke nearly 150 from the highest point, closing at the lowest. Wheat alone hardened in the afternoon on the reports of enormous exports.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY.

AERONAUTIC STUDIES BEHIND BOLTS AND BARS.

Atherton, Sydenham-road, Croydon, was for many years a house of mystery. Containing 16 rooms, it was occupied by a single person—the late Mr. D. H. G. Chambers, who left estate of the net value of £16,955, most of which he bequeathed for the erection and maintenance of almshouses, which, however, had not to be built within 50 miles of Croydon Town Hall. Mr. Chambers was said to have been a provincial mayor, but he would not talk of his affairs to anyone. No repairs were ever done to the house, which got into a deplorable state of dilapidation. His sister, Miss J. M. Chambers, B.Sc., after whom the almshouses are to be named, shared the house with him until her death. He apparently left her things absolutely undisturbed, until the days of years covered everything. Mr. Chambers bolted himself in with amazing thoroughness. Half-inch iron bars, firmly embedded in the masonry, protected the basement windows. The back portico had an iron gate, and every outer door had padlocks, chains, wire netting bolts, and screwed down shutters. Least there should be an incursion from the roof, the trap-door leading thereto was doubly padlocked.

COLLECTION OF TRUNKS.

Mr. Chambers kept four six-chambered revolvers handy, with ammunition. To callers the front door was opened only upon his chains. No one had entered the house but an old crossing sweeper from the adjacent street corner, who helped the recluse for a few days when he was ill, and was rewarded with 6d. Mr. Chambers cooked for himself and did his own shopping. He always paid cash over the counter, demanded a receipt bill, and took his purchases with him. His simple fare consisted largely of patent cereal foods.

In the house were found about 40 trunks, hold-alls, and the like, including several venerable carpet bags. There were Continental time-tables, guide books, and pocket dictionaries sufficient to take the owners over the larger part of Europe. The books left showed high intellectual tastes. Anatomy, philosophy, and physics had been studied; photography, chemistry, and the manifold uses of electricity.

Aeronautics, however, seemed to have had chief attention. Many notes and diagrams were the work of Miss Chambers, and there was a big collection of newspaper cuttings on the subject. In a large building in the garden long and diligent labour had been given to all kinds of contrivances, including big kites and small aeroplanes.

The effects found included a rotary aeroplane engine, and various sets of aluminium "biplane" wings. Some bicycles had apparently been taken to pieces, for wheels and other parts to be utilised in designs. Oiled calico, bundles of bamboo rods, and rolls of wire netting were among the material with elaborately made wood-work sundries, all bearing evidence of patient toil. A gondola-like box suggested an attempt at a man-carrying machine.

Where the inventors proposed to try their work was a mystery. At the auction the contents of the "aerodrome" went at lumber prices.

Miss Chambers had women suffrage sympathies, and had tried literary composition. "The Triumph of Woods" is the tragedy of flowers choked by "seeding" rolling, crawling sprawling, breeding weeds, the author lamenting that "everything, worthless seems to do nothing but breed."

LONDON AT NIGHT.

A young girl in London, in reply to a request from her uncle in Hongkong that she should write her impressions of London in war time, cleverly evaded the request by sending the following as a substitute:—

What I adventure forth at night
What perils do I meet!
At every step I get a fright
That scares me off my feet.
So ink-black, so pitchy-dark
Are now pedestrian ways.
My china I seldom fail to bark,
My knuckles cut or graze.

I grope—and wonder where I am;
I wave my stick—and away;
I dodge a bus and bump a tram
That bears my hat away.

I ating my feet with stepping down
From kerbs that are not there,
I gambol like a circus clown
With both feet in the air.

I crane my neck, I strain my eyes
Like a blind man at bay,
To lamp-posts I apologise
For getting in their way.

I founder forward, street and square
Look all the time to see
I keep on asking "specials" where
On earth my house can be.

For yon at home again I swear
No more at night I'll walk,
Until they pave some thoroughfare
With phosphorescent chalk.

SINKING OF THE ARABIA.

HOW THE GREAT LINER MET HER DOOM.

SURVIVORS' SUFFERINGS.

The Daily Chronicle's Marseilles correspondent, telegraphs:—Only the fortunate circumstances of a smooth sea, the nearness of a few steamers, and the slowness with which she succumbed, prevented the Arabia becoming a second Lusitania. Listening to survivors' narratives one could not fail to be impressed by the similarity of the two crimes. The passengers were left to shift for themselves and to drift in open boats 300 miles from land. Germany has deliberately broken her pledges to America, and is defying the world.

Mr. George Mortimer Gordon, a passenger, says: "The sea was like glass, and the majority of the passengers were on deck enjoying the sunshine, while the Arabia was making her top speed. It seemed difficult for a submarine to get us—we were forging so rapidly ahead. The stewards were distributing the usual pre-lunch bowls of soup when suddenly, without warning, there came a great shock and a thunderous explosion, followed by a moment of strange silence. All of us knew what had happened, though only a few had seen the torpedo racing towards the ship before she was struck. There were no panic cries, or confusion. We had previously had several submarine drills. Lifeboats were at hand, and each knew his allotted station number and position on the boat. All walked quite quietly to their stations. The women behaved splendidly. Some of the passengers went to their cabins to save what was possible, but they were the exceptions, for none knew how many minutes the Arabia would keep afloat. The explosion had smashed the last but one to be launched. The captain was the last to leave the ship. The women and children were first placed in the boats before they were launched, and all the boats were got away without incident, thanks to the smooth sea. The Arabia's gunners in the meantime, sticking to their posts, fired at the periscope, and they believed that they sank the submarine. I am not aware whether they really succeeded, for another periscope was seen later near the sinking Arabia. Possibly, however, it was that of a second submarine."

STRUCK AFT.

Boats hung about watching, the doomed ship and waiting to be picked up by some trawlers which came up, one of which took off the Arabia's commander. The trawler hovered about, fearing that the Germans would attempt to board the Arabia and get the papers, which the commander determined to prevent. Exactly 95 minutes after she was struck the Arabia sank. Her list was very slight at the outset. In the first half-hour there was little change; then she settled down, dipped at the stern, and sank very slowly, making one of the most moving and most pathetic spectacles. The Arabia was stuck at in the bunkers, and her remaining aloft was due to the effect of the coal breaking the effect of the explosion.

"Forty-eight of us were on board a trawler without accommodation, on the first night. There was a terrific thunderstorm and the majority of the survivors were on the deck exposed to the cold and drenched to the skin."

Other passengers narrate that nobody saved any belongings. Most of the passengers lost their money and jewellery. One passenger lost all his professional property, valued at £7,000.

A message from Marseilles states that the Arabia's survivors deny the reported sinking of the submarine as a result of the liner's gunfire.

THE SILVER STREAK.

The Daily Telegraph's Malta correspondent says:—All the survivors of the Arabia comment on the good fortune of the torpedoing not having taken place a few hours later, when it would have been impossible to get all the passengers away. A passenger leaning over the rail called to his companions to "Come and look at this silver streak." The explosion occurred the next instant. Everybody was well instructed as to the boat stations. Members of several families were separated owing to the upsetting of two boats necessitating a change of plans at the last moment.

One trawler encircled the sinking liner and saw every detail of the liner's end with the loose gear and anchors gradually sliding on the decks as the vessel tilted. Then she gave a quiet dive; there were two big gusts of soot and smoke, and during the next two minutes wooden objects shot to the surface, including chairs, boards, and a baby's cradle. There was practically no vortex, and the two loose boats quickly floated as the mailboat sank. There were many narrow escapes. The explosion smashed a cabin from which a nurse and child crawled out unscathed. Some ladies still feel shaken; many have bandaged hands and others are still suffering from the 36 hours' exposure in rain and spray on the trawlers, but all are full of praise and gratitude for the crews who gave up oilskins and clothing and were unremittent in their efforts to reduce the survivors' discomfort, caring especially for the women and children.

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| NAMUR | Feb. 23 | *MOREA | Mar. 23 | Apr. 1 |
| NELLORE | Mar. 6 | *MEDINA | Apr. 8 | Apr. 15 |
| | Mar. 23 | *MONGOLIA | Apr. 23 | Apr. 29 |
| NORE | Apr. 6 | Through Steamer | May 9 | May 20 |
| MALTA | Apr. 20 | *KAISAR-I-HIND | May 21 | May 28 |
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SIDELIGHTS FROM GERMANY.

HOW THE PACIFIC OCEAN IS TO BE PARTITIONED.

THE GENTLE ART OF SOWING DISSENSION.

Clearly a strong propagandist attempt is an article in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" dealing with "The Partition of the South Sea."

The purpose of the article is to show that one of the war aims of the Australian Commonwealth is the regulation of the possession of the South Sea.

Australia believes that at the Peace her voice will be heard, and it is pretty certain that Hughes will go to London to take part in peace negotiations. The Australians would be untrue to their British descent, says the article, if they did not regard it as a matter of course that the entire island world of the South Sea should be incorporated in their Dominion. Australia and New Zealand have always opposed colonisation in the Pacific by other Powers than England. Well known is their opposition to Germany's efforts in this direction. The acquisition of New Guinea and the annexation of the Samoa Islands by Germany was regarded in both Dominions as an unauthorised interference with the divine rights of England.

So strong was the agitation against Germany that those voices were not heard which urged that it is much better to have a civilised Power in the South Sea than cannibals, or that it would be an enormous advantage to Australia to have interposed between her and Japan a sort of buffer State, in the form of colonies belonging to a European State.

I do not think there is much available Asiatic population to be drawn on for services in the war zones outside the splendid soldiery of India and the civilians needed to accompany the Indian troops; in other words, Indians are better employed in this war (and to any extent you like as soldiers rather than as labourers. Malaysia is too far off, and probably, as in Ceylon, the indigenous population only suffices for local labour needs that cannot, without damage to our industries, be pre-empted.

So we are left with Africa as our recruiting ground. I estimate when local requirements—certainly not to be overlooked, or our trade suffers—are satisfied we might obtain about 2,000 men from the German Colonies, 10,000 from Sierra Leone, 50,000 from the Gold Coast (chiefly Ashanti and Northern Territories), 20,000 from Southern Nigeria and Cameroons (not forgetting the Yoruba behind Lagos), 20,000 from Northern Nigeria, 10,000 Basuto, 5,000 Bechuanas, 20,000 Cape Boers, 20,000 Cape Kaffirs, 60,000 Natal Kaffirs and Zulus, 10,000 from Nyasaland and adjoining Rhodesia, 10,000 from what was German East Africa (Wanyamwezi preferred), 10,000 from Zanzibar and East Africa, 20,000 from Uganda, and 50,000 from the Sudan and Egypt. How many does this addition make?—343,000.

Letters from the French and Flemish fronts during a year and a half, plus a personal visit to the neighbourhood of the fighting and elsewhere in France, impresses me on the fact that far too large a proportion of our most efficient soldiers, our skilled marksmen, our expert bomb throwers are employed away from the front—in other words, in loading and unloading trucks at railway junctions in sanitary work, in digging, road-making and what not else that could be as efficiently done by strong negroes or negrooids. Personally I see no more objections than does Sir Alfred Sharpe to some of these men acting as soldiers, scouts or guards. But let us not be led by factious arguments from the main necessity of providing our Army in France with stalwart, eager, loyal, well-paid, well-clothed, well-fed labour force from Africa.

What will Japan say to the partition of the Pacific?

The "Frankfurter" article proceeds with a sketch of Australia's and New Zealand's historical ambitions, special notice being taken of designs on New Guinea. We are told that this Australian hunger for fresh territory has not a shred of justice to support it. "For Australia is so thinly populated," the even British writers deny the right of Australians to a monopoly of their continent. This, however, makes no difference, and they will insist on demanding the foundation of a great colonial empire at the conclusion of the war. The "Frankfurter" incidentally remarks that the war will greatly reduce their male population. In this way England, the mother land of Australia, will become the grandmother of Australia's colonies. One of the first of these granddaughters colonies will be the Fiji Islands.

The latter part of the article is occupied with an ingenious attempt to breed trouble between the Commonwealth and Japan. It speaks of the competition for the possession of the German islands in which New Zealand, gained the Samoa Islands, Australia, New Guinea, and Japan, to her disgust, only the Caroline and Marianne groups. We are told that the ambition of the Dominions to master the Pacific will not be so easy as Australians seem to imagine. What about the French, Dutch and American groups of islands? And how is Australia to fit up matters with New Zealand?

And what will Japan say to the partition of the Pacific?

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AFRICAN MAN POWER.

WHITE SOLDIERS WASTED ON NAVY WORK.

343,000 COLOURED MEN AS RELIANCE.

In the interesting article we print below Sir Harry Johnston, following on a previous contribution to the "Daily Chronicle," reviews the area available for recruiting a non-combatant corps of Africans, and estimates the number available at 343,000 men.

I do not think there is much available Asiatic population to be drawn on for services in the war zones outside the splendid soldiery of India and the civilians needed to accompany the Indian troops; in other words, Indians are better employed in this war (and to any extent you like as soldiers rather than as labourers. Malaysia is too far off, and probably, as in Ceylon, the indigenous population only suffices for local labour needs that cannot, without damage to our industries, be pre-empted.

So we are left with Africa as our recruiting ground. I estimate when local requirements—certainly not to be overlooked, or our trade suffers—are satisfied we might obtain about 2,000 men from the German Colonies, 10,000 from Sierra Leone, 50,000 from the Gold Coast (chiefly Ashanti and Northern Territories), 20,000 from Southern Nigeria and Cameroons (not forgetting the Yoruba behind Lagos), 20,000 from Northern Nigeria, 10,000 Basuto, 5,000 Bechuanas, 20,000 Cape Boers, 20,000 Cape Kaffirs, 60,000 Natal Kaffirs and Zulus, 10,000 from Nyasaland and adjoining Rhodesia, 10,000 from what was German East Africa (Wanyamwezi preferred), 10,000 from Zanzibar and East Africa, 20,000 from Uganda, and 50,000 from the Sudan and Egypt. How many does this addition make?—343,000.

Letters from the French and Flemish fronts during a year and a half, plus a personal visit to the neighbourhood of the fighting and elsewhere in France, impresses me on the fact that far too large a proportion of our most efficient soldiers, our skilled marksmen, our expert bomb throwers are employed away from the front—in other words, in loading and unloading trucks at railway junctions in sanitary work, in digging, road-making and what not else that could be as efficiently done by strong negroes or negrooids. Personally I see no more objections than does Sir Alfred Sharpe to some of these men acting as soldiers, scouts or guards. But let us not be led by factious arguments from the main necessity of providing our Army in France with stalwart, eager, loyal, well-paid, well-clothed, well-fed labour force from Africa.

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

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